

**FILED**

**JAN 29 2009**

**Commission on  
Judicial Performance**

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
BEFORE THE COMMISSION OF JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE**

INQUIRY CONCERNING )  
JUDGE CHRISTOPHER J. SHELDON )  
 )  
No. 186 )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

**ANSWER OF JUDGE CHRISTOPHER J. SHELDON TO  
NOTICE OF FORMAL PROCEEDINGS  
(Rules 104(c) and 119)**

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Co-Counsel

**COUNT ONE****ALLEGATION**

You have been assigned to the dependency department in Indio since August 2005.

The dependency calendar routinely concludes before noon.

Since approximately January 2006, you routinely have left the courthouse for the day after the calendar is concluded.

You have not informed your superiors of your routine absences during court hours, and have not sought or received authorization for these half-day absences.

**ANSWER**

Admit assignment began November 2005.

Admit such has been the case since approximately later 2006 or early 2007.

Admit leaving the courthouse for the day after all work and judicial business was concluded.

Admit that I have not sought official authorization in advance for half day absences before the fall of 2008, but deny that my superiors were not aware. In fact, no superior raised any issue with me regarding my hours until September 12, 2008, and, when it was raised, I conformed my hours to their expectations.

On occasion, the juvenile delinquency judge in Indio has handled ex parte dependency matters during your afternoon absences.

Admit, and I cover matters for him as well.

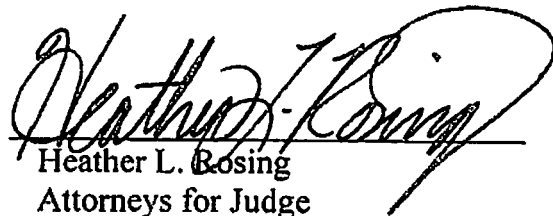
You generally have not sought to make yourself available for other judicial work during these absences.

Deny.

KLINEDINST PC

Dated: January 29, 2009

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heather L. Rosing", is written over a horizontal line.

Heather L. Rosing  
Attorneys for Judge  
Christopher J. Sheldon

**VERIFICATION**

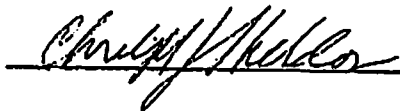
I, CHRISTOPHER J. SHELDON, declare:

I am the judge named in the above-entitled action.

I have read the foregoing ANSWER OF JUDGE CHRISTOPHER J. SHELDON TO THE NOTICE OF FORMAL PROCEEDINGS, and know the contents thereof. I certify that the same is true of my own knowledge except as to those matters which are therein stated upon information or belief, and as to those matters I believe them to be true.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed in Indio, California, on January 29, 2009.



Christopher J. Sheldon